CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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REFERENCES

| | SECURITY INFORMATION | | 25 X |
|---------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| COUNTRY | Czechoslovakia | REPORT | |
| SUBJECT | Railroads: Expansion of Trackage and Storage Facilities | DATE DISTR. 19 March 19 | 53 |
| • | | NO. OF PAGES | • |

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- 1. Accedings to Soviet demands to introduce the Blazenov plan! into Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak Government originally agreedttolinstall the plansonly insofardas yard and terminal facilities were concerned. The Czechoslovak Government assured Soviet authorities that the proposed measures would produce the desired increase of line facilities as well by one third.
- 2. This expectation proved to be erroneous, and in July 1952, the Soviet authorities once more stressed the necessity that all rail facilities in Czechoslovakia be increased by one third. Gustav Kliment, then Czechoslovak Minister of Heavy Engineering, protested that the application of the whole Blazenov plan would be harmful to the delivery of Czech locomotives and machines to the USSR, because of the shortage of manpower in Czechoslovakia. These deliveries, for which Kliment was held responsible, have a full priority; he claimed that full application of the Blazenov Plan would render one or the other impossible.
- 3. Soviet pressure finally forced the government to yield. Gottwald decided to have Kliment, in his capacity of chairman of the Central Trade Inion Council (URO), obtain from his successor as Minister of Heavy Engineering, Julius Maurer, guarantees that the introduction of the Blazenov plan would not interfere with deliveries to the USSR.
- 4. In order to apply the Blazenov plan, Gottwald decided on 1 August 1952 to set up an independent Ministry of Railways, separating its administration from the existing Ministry of Transportation.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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